Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least about 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28**, wherein the polypeptide functions to promote protein exit from the endoplasmic reticulum and protein maturation**.

25. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

26. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24 comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

27. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is a transmembrane protein.

28. (Previously presented) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 24.

29. (Previously presented) An isolated cell transformed with the recombinant polynucleotide of claim 28.

30. (Previously presented) A method of producing the polypeptide encoded by the polynucleotide of claim 24, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein the cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to the polynucleotide of claim 24, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 28.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.

33. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide sequence having at least about 95% sequence identity to ~~a~~ **the** polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that is a transmembrane protein**, wherein the polypeptide functions to promote protein exit from the endoplasmic reticulum and protein maturation**;

b) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence of a); and

c) an RNA equivalent of the polynucleotide sequence of a) or b).

34. (Previously presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 33 comprising the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 57.